

**REMARKS**

**Pending Claims**

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 4, 5 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, 6-8 and 10-13 are pending.

**Priority**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and receipt of the priority document.

**Drawings**

Applicants submit replacement sheets of drawings for Fig. 3, 6 and 19 in which the numerals 10, 11, 32, 33, 34 and 35 have been deleted, since each of the numerals refers to self-explanatory connection lines, and therefore further description of these connections is unnecessary.

**Specification and 35 U.S.C. §112**

The specification has been amended as required.

Claims 3 and 8 have been amended to avoid the informality addressed by the Examiner by deleting the word "always".

Further, claims 3, 8 and 13 have been amended to replace the word "it" with the "predicted value" thereby overcoming the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection.

35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

Applicants refer to the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by the article by Gabbay et al; the rejection of claims 5, 6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Gabbay et al and the rejection of claims 7, 10, 11 and 12 as being unpatentable over Gabbay et al in view of Lipasti et al. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 9 have been canceled without admitting to the propriety of the rejections. The rejections of the remainder of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a), however, are contradicted by the statements made in paragraphs 29 and 30 of the Office Action which state that certain claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Clarification is requested.


In view of the indication of allowable claims, Applicants have amended claims 2, 6 and 10 to place them in independent

form to include the limitations of their respective base claims. The remainder of the pending claims are either dependent on amended claims 2, 6 and 10 or have one of these claims as its base claim and therefore should be found to be allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Mattingly", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

John R. Mattingly  
Registration No. 30,293  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.  
1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 370  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 684-1120  
Date: February 7, 2005

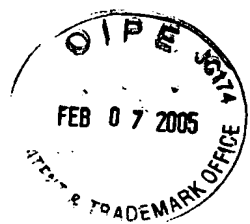


FIG. 3

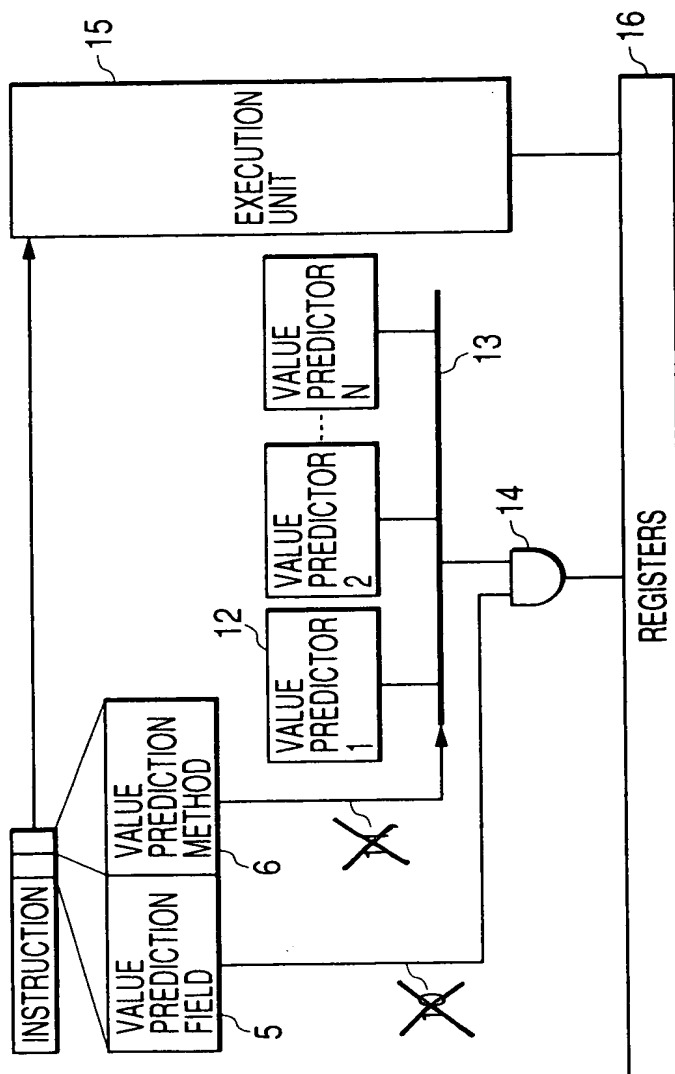


FIG. 6

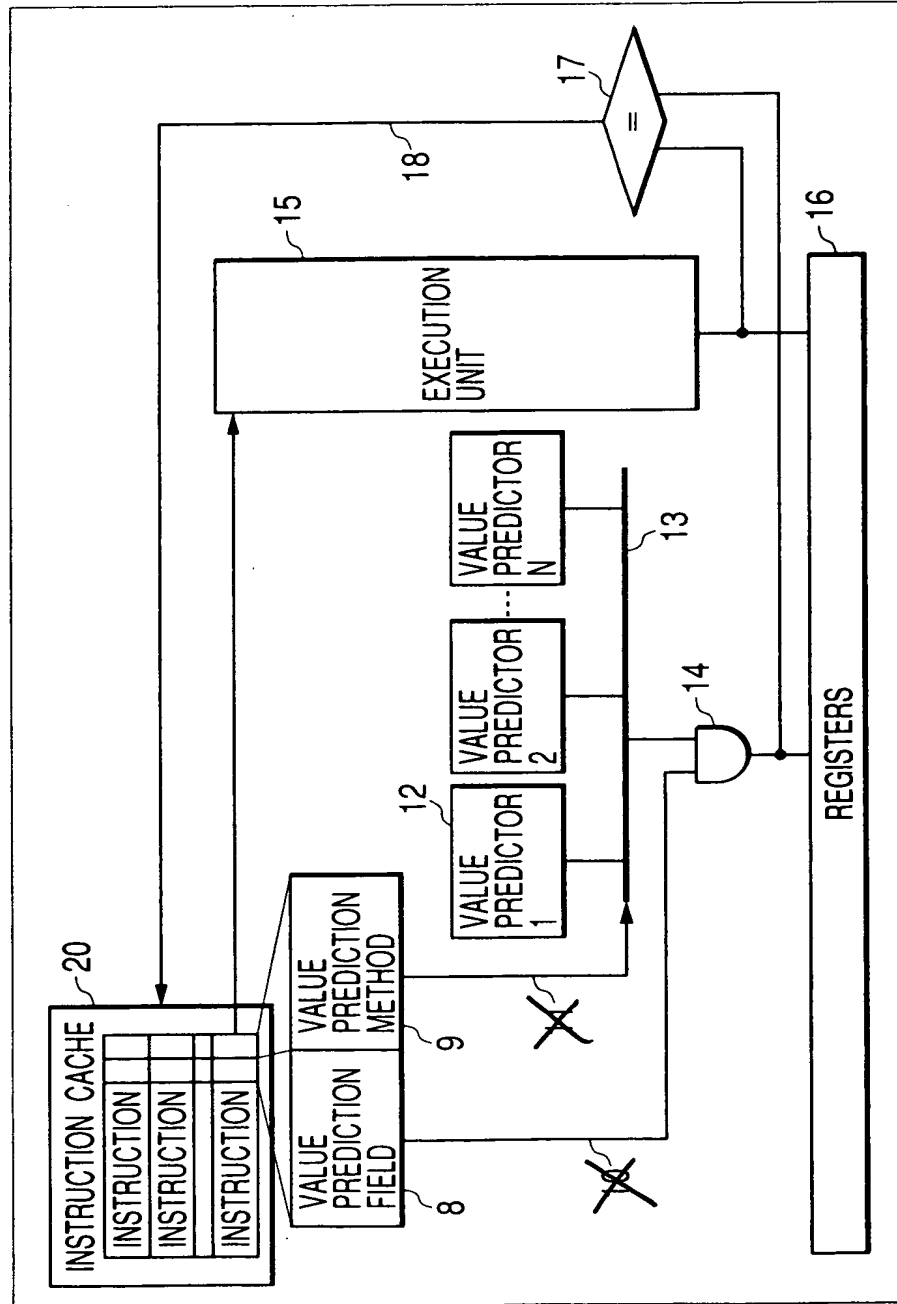


FIG. 19

